

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Selectmen's Meeting Room – Town Hall
Monthly Meeting – March 31, 2016
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton Representative
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Fran McMahon, Rockingham Planning Commission
Rick Griffin, Town of Hampton Representative
Michael Housman, DRED Operations Supervisor
Bob Preston, Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District
Dean Merrill, At Large

Excused: 0

Absent: 0

Other: Jason Bachand, Town Planner
Anne Marchand, Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Commissioners.

Public Comments related to Agenda Items.

Mr. Charlie Preston commented that tomorrow, April 1st, the parking meters go into effect at Hampton Beach. (Mr. Housman will speak to this later in the meeting.) Mr. Preston spoke on a number of items as follow: one should err on the side of caution when looking at climate changes; Warrant Article 38 "E Street" and his comments at the prior HBAC Meeting; his frustration in getting nowhere on the traffic reconstruction at the E Street intersection; bus stops allowing people to get out of the rain; wasted money to study traffic on Ashworth Avenue; putting an ATM at the corner of Brown and Ashworth; keeping people from parking in the travel lane. With regard to Article 38, there were 1174 votes not to discontinue. He thanked the people who supported the Article and questioned if there is an appeal process for Warrant Articles.

Appointments. No appointments this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

MOTION: It was Moved by Mr. McMahon Seconded by Mr. Griffin to approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2016 Meeting as presented.

VOTE: 8 In favor, 0 Opposed, 1 Abstain (Mr. Watson)

MOTION PASSED

CHAIRMAN's REPORT.

1. Update: Tiger Grant Application

Mr. Nyhan commented that it was voted at the last meeting to explore the Tiger Grant application. This is a Federal Program with no application requirements and a clear cut application for those eligible. He stated he looked into the information available and took part in a Webinar in early March that provided the pros and cons in areas looked at for the Grant criteria. He also stated the HBAC was eligible to apply for over \$1 million. He also noted that an application requirement submitted had to be for construction only. There was no funding for engineering or planning, and applicants were required to be shovel ready by September 30, 2019. One of the issues Mr. Nyhan looked at was the Ocean Boulevard reconstruction project which would fit the type of project eligible for funding by the Tiger Grant. He then decided to request input from Mr. Rose and Mr. Watson. It became evident that it would be in HBAC's best interests to move away from the emotional aspect to the realistic point of view of "are we ready" or would we be ready by September 2019.

Mr. Watson explained requirements that need be in place if the Grant should be awarded. There were a number of items such as different design/engineering concepts. They also discussed Senator Stiles helping to move things forward in the Ten Year Plan, and it was hoped this could be something to shoot for; however, it came down to if the HBAC were to put in an application, which was due by the end of April 2016, a dollar amount would have to be given for what it would cost to do Ocean Boulevard. This, Mr. Watson said, changed Mr. Nyhan's opinion in that there may be a known number, but a defined number is not ready at this time. It will be six months to a year getting from VHB a real detailed engineering design that would give the actual cost. The other component concerns the alternatives to be recommended for Ocean Boulevard, i.e. whether it would be south or north of the Ashworth Hotel.

He noted that Mr. Nyhan was anxious to get moving, but the risk became evident and it would jeopardize any future application if the HBAC had to back out of the Tiger Grant after having it awarded. Mr. Nyhan then recommended that the HBAC postpone applying for the Tiger Grant until there is more definite information and hard numbers to do Ocean Boulevard.

Mr. Watson stated that Mr. Nyhan is right in that, in reality, the HBAC is now involved in a process that has to be concluded, and money received for the Master Plan update. Based on outcomes that give a picture of the type of transportation improvements that have to be done and coordinated; i.e. bridge work, section improvements, whether it be north or south, involvement with DRED parking are things that need to be flushed out which would not be complete until towards the end of the calendar year.

The Tiger Grant, he said, will happen every year as it is part of the Transportation Reauthorization Bill through 2020, a long term transportation bill. It will be back at the table next year or the year after. Looking at agencies which are part of this Tiger round, every project already has a defined scope or specified design work which started three years ago. The HBAC has not determined the component of the project. He also spoke of the huge permitting issues to get through as well as climate change issues. There are many components to overcome to get to

construction by 2019. He also spoke of the administrative processes to get through which need conversations and agreement. It takes time to get through these processes.

Mr. Watson said Senator Stiles has worked hard for the engineering funds. The Ten Year Plan passed in the House and is now moving on to the Senate. He concluded it is premature for HBAC to go for the Tiger Grant, but it is not the only shot, and there is an opportunity for next year. Once the Ten Year Plan is in place and approved, the conversation can continue but it will be a year ahead of where we are now with a much better chance of success. Also if we apply and fall our face, everything spent has to go back to Federal highway. Mr. Watson does not want to put HBAC or DOT as risk.

DOT's recommendation is that this is not right time to move on with Tiger Application.

Mr. Nyhan stated that it is not necessary to make a formal motion; however, the HBAC will move forward and revisit the Tiger Application process in 2017.

2. Update on Transportation Grant:

Mr. Nyhan reported he had an e-mail from Jason Bachand, Town Planner, asking that the Planning Board and HBAC get together to discuss the Transportation Grant. Mr. Bachand will set up a meeting, perhaps in April, to have discussion. The Planning Board needs to have input and talk about steps in the future. The Commissioners will be notified of the date.

Mr. Nyhan also reported he sent an e-mail to Senator Stiles to give her a heads up that there will be a time that recommendations will be made to the Master Plan, and the HBAC needs to know the process and how to incorporate the revisions into the Plan. The Master Plan was developed in 2001 and it was recommendation that a HBAC be established. In 2003, it was determined that the HBAC can consult and advise, but also references that there is a responsibility to have periodic reviews. This, he said, is a periodic review and leads to the issue of what happens and how. He asked Senator Stiles to contact the Attorney General to determine if there are definitions within the RSA that will spell out the approval process. Would the existing RSA have to be amended to include a section for "Approval Process"? Would this be the Town? The Planning Board? The HBAC? Mr. Nyhan wants to be in a position to make recommendations and how one proceeds and incorporates. The addressing issue is now up to the interpretation of the RSA.

Mr. McMahon stated that the Planning Board did approve the original Master Plan. Further, the HBAC and Planning Board should talk about this when they have a scheduled meeting together. Mr. McMahon also said the Planning Board may like to be a part of the approval process.

Mr. Nyhan said that, when the Planning Board originally adopted the Master Plan, there was no HBAC, and he questions what role the Planning Board and the HBAC have now. There is nothing in the RSA that determines what one does when there is to be a change. Mr. McMahon said there may be some confusion, but the process can be worked through.

Mr. Watson spoke on the Transportation Grant reporting that VHB has been given notice to proceed to extend the study to Winnacunnet Road. DOT worked with VHB stating that consideration should be given to looking further north. There will be condition reports dealing with zoning, parking, etc, and these will be identified with recommendations of corridor and roadway improvements coming before the HBAC. There is a cost estimate of \$28,000, estimated by Mr. Rose, to complete this additional review; however, VHB stated the cost may be considerably under that amount. Mr. Watson will provide the exact cost.

Mr. Griffin asked if DOT has anything to do with the markings of the streets that are going on now. Mr. Watson will check and report back. There was comment that it may be Dig Safe.

Mr. Nyhan reported that, at the April meeting, the Commissioners will be provided with a First Quarter In-Kind Service Report. Also, he will ask that Mr. Rose be present or provide a report on what is to take place over the next three months.

TREASURER's REPORT:

Mr. Housman stated there was no spending this past month and the balance remains at \$11,839.43.

Mr. Nyhan provided a Town of Hampton Invoice for Secretarial Services for six months in the amount of \$488.00.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Rage, seconded by Mr. Griffin to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and, further, to approve payment of the Town of Hampton Invoice for Secretarial Services for six months in the amount of \$488.00.

VOTE: 9 In favor, 0 opposed.

MOTION PASSED

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Fund Raising ideas. Mr. Merrill and Mr. Preston reported that this is not a good time for fund raising in that many committees, events, etc., are looking for sponsors. Mr. Merrill stated he had come up with some ideas such as a roof-top outing or an event at the Sea Shell. The sub-committee will reconnect and report back to the HBAC.

2. Intermodal Center. Public Hearing at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on April 11th. Mr. Nyhan announced the Board of Selectmen will be hosting a Public Hearing at their regular meeting on Monday, April 11th in order to allow residents to voice their opinions. This project needs support from the Town of Hampton, he said, and encouraged attendance. From the HBAC prospective, this subject goes back to 1989 when there was talk of a monorail system. Further, the Master Plan refers to an offsite parking facility. There are people in town would like to have a say on the Intermodal. Mr. Nyhan said he will speak, but as an individual. People need to realize that the town is 10 years away from having something done at Rte. 1 and 101; however, it is not in the Ten-Year Plan. There is plenty of time to provide input to the RPC and he would not want to see the town say "no, or no support" and if that should happen, the plan may go back on the shelf. He is hopeful the Board of Selectmen will provide some level of support to having the RPC move forward.

Mr. Griffin said the Intermodal has a long history and would like Mr. McMahon's comments.

Mr. McMahon stated he is hearing two different pieces from the Selectmen – one is the location of the Intermodal Center and whether the location is appropriate. The second, the interchange, is a State problem. There was discussion whether the Intermodal should be out on I95; however, from a beach prospective, the ideal location is at the interchange. He also noted that the Planning Board has not had discussion on this topic.

Mr. Griffin stated now is the time for people to speak, and he requests information/feedback from the public. He stated that there have been comments that the Intermodal will only benefit people from other towns.

Mr. McMahon questioned who the Intermodal will be serving i.e. Hampton and the immediate area/surrounding towns. A few Commissioners commented they always use the Newburyport lot, and Mr. McMahon said the Intermodal will certainly benefit the people of Hampton. He also commented that parking at the beach keeps going away as vacant lots turn into buildings. Parking parcels keep disappearing. This Plan, he said, is an alternative and a planning function which will continue. Further, as the beach redevelops, there will be increasing demand to go to there.

Mr. Preston noted that parking is disappearing, but with the buildings in place, more taxes are received by the Town. He also noted that bus companies serving the Intermodal would be happier out closer to I95. Further parking is desperately needed out at the beach and one has to look at planning, especially when getting on and off Rte. 101.

Mr. Rage commented that it is not just the beach that needs parking, it is also downtown. This Plan would support local businesses as they, too, need more parking. The Intermodal would help the whole town and the convenience of location should be as planned. The problem will be worse ten years from now and there needs to be changes. One has to look at the big picture. Mr. Rage commented that he has had a lot of guests coming off the bus for their vacations and it would be advantageous and convenient for those who want to make the trip.

Mr. Nyhan encouraged the RPC to take the opportunity to explore alternatives, and to keep the Plan moving forward.

Mr. Ladd feels the bus stops should be beside the highway, not having the busses driving into town creating more traffic.

Mr. Nyhan stated that the HBAC has heard the conversation and encourages people to come to the Town Hall on April 11th to speak to this important project.

3. Other Old Business.

Mr. Nyhan reported the Motion voted by the HBAC to support Warrant Article 21 passed and was also supported by the voters of Hampton; however, the Motion the HBAC made not to support Article 42 failed, this was also not supported by the Hampton voters.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Extending an invitation to Regina Barnes to attend an HBAC meeting as the new Hampton Selectwoman.

Mr. Nyhan stated he will extend an invitation to Ms. Barnes, giving her the opportunity to share her thoughts about Hampton Beach as well as give her the opportunity to meet the Commissioners. He said would like to hear her vision and share with her where and who the HBAC is.

2. State Parks Spring Meeting.

Mr. Housman reported there will be a Spring Community meeting on May 19th at the Seashell. This is an opportunity to invite the people in to meet and talk with DRED. The meetings are beneficial and the staff will be there to explain the future projects, etc. He also reported that the pay stations will begin on April 18th. The pay stations are being upgraded with improvements in technology. The pay stations will not be in operation from April 1 – April 17th. There will be signage.

3. Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission. Mr. Nyhan would like to make sure the Commissioners go on line and read the draft report. He would like to hear opinions. The public comment period runs from March 18th to June 30th and can be mailed to the Rockingham Planning Commission. This may have a direct impact on Hampton Beach; however, he feels we are a long way as far as creating any type of emergency situation such as that which has been addressed in this report. He does not want to pass that message, and spoken to Senator Stiles' comments in the Hampton Union that "we need to take some steps to protect ourselves and if we plan well, we'll be okay ... I do think we need to take precautions". Mr. Nyhan provided a copy of the Commission's contact information.

4. Mr. Nyhan stated the HBAC makes an annual report to the Board of Selectmen, and he will try to schedule this in April. It would be a two-agenda appointment, giving them an annual review and taking the opportunity to address them, once and for all, concerns about the sidewalks on the west side of Ocean Boulevard. There needs to be agreement between the Town and DOT. He stated this must be resolved even though the HBAC is not going for the Tiger Grant at this time, the Board of Selectmen need to make a decision. He said he will put this on the table. He further said there are five individuals on the Board that have an interest in seeing Hampton Beach/Ocean Boulevard move forward. There will have to be concessions by both the Town and the DOT, but it should be brought to conclusion.

Mr. Preston stated he strongly supports the sidewalk issue as this is a dangerous situation.

Mr. Rage commented that people are tripping and falling all the time.

Mr. Nyhan will notify Commissioners of the date he will be going before the Board of Selectmen.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Housman, seconded by Mr. Ladd and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm. **MOTION PASSED**

APRIL MEETING DATE CHANGE. The next meeting of the HBAC will be held on **Thursday, April 21, 2016.** Location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Marchand, Secretary

THANK YOU CHANNEL 22 !